

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

FROM THE REPORTER OF THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 16.

In the House of Representatives, to-day, Mr.

J. Brown of Pa. offered a resolution granting the

use of the Hall for a colonization meeting this

evening.

Mr. BLACK of Ga. objected furiously, saying

that they were as bad as Abolitionists. After a

delay for want of a quorum, the rules were sus-

pended.—Yeas 129, Nays 47. and the resolution

was received and adopted.

Mr. PATTERSON's resolution calling on the Post-

master General as to the number of drop and free

letters, the mail matter transmitted through the

channels, &c., again came up. Mr. HOPKINS

(Chairman of the Post Office Committee) exhib-

ited the Postmaster General's circular to the

Deputy Postmasters in October, and the docu-

ment of facts recorded in reply (which was to be

laid before the Senate in answer to its call) and

opposed the resolution as entirely unnecessary.—

Mr. Patterson then modified the resolution to call

for a synopsis of this document; and the report,

as giving rise to debate, was laid over.

The report of the Select Committee on the

rules of the House again came up. Mr. COBB

of Ga. concluded his speech in favor of the 21st

rule, and intended principally to influence North-

ern Locos, who have heretofore gone with the

South for the rule. If in order to relieve them-

selves from the false issue that had been raised

about the right of petition, they now abandoned

the rule and adopted one receiving the petitions

and laying them on the table, they would be told

by the Abolitionists that that was not sufficient,

and would be forced step by step to allow the

reading, reference, report, discussion, and action

on these in the same manner as other petitions.

One extreme or the other must be taken; there

was no neutral ground. He urged them, unre-

sundered as they were, to take the other extreme,

to reconsider their decision and resume and main-

tain their former position in support of the rule.

Mr. HUDSON, with his usual plainness and

cogency of reasoning, opposed the 21st rule, con-

tending in reply to Mr. RICE and others that it

was a violation of the constitutional right of pe-

tition. The gentleman in a pamphlet to the pe-

tition had complained that the freedom of speech

had been annihilated by the hour rule, while he

maintained that the right of petition (which was

guaranteed by the same clause and in the same

terms of the Constitution) was fulfilled by a brief

statement of the contents and then the refusal to

receive the petition! The right of petition in-

volved the reception, reference, consideration, and

action, and was not satisfied (as held by Mr.

BEARDSLEY) by mere reception and then laying

on the table.

Mr. BEARDSLEY found it necessary again to

explain his position. He held not that the mere

reception and laying on the table was all that was

required by the right of petition; the petitions

should be considered; if the House had fully

made up their minds, they might lay them on the

table; and it was as truly a consideration of them

as if they occupied minutes in discussion.

Mr. HUDSON claimed for these petitions the

same course of treatment as for others. He

contended for "exclusive legislation"—for all

legislative powers—for the full and unequalled

power of Congress over Slavery in the District.

He referred to the acts of almost all the State

Legislatures and to some of their Constitutions

—certain of the latter (i. e. that of Miss.) contain-

ing a provision against the abolition of Slavery

by its Legislatures, thus acknowledging directly

Slavery to be a legitimate subject for legislation;

to the amendment to the Constitution proposed

by Va. a few years ago, to restrain Congress

from abolishing Slavery here, except by the con-

sent of Md. and Va.; to the debates in the Va.

Convention which adopted the Constitution, it

being opposed on this very ground by Patrick

Henry and others, and urged on the same ground

by Madison there; and in the Federalist; to the

abolition of the Slave Trade by Congress in

1808; to the concordant opinions of all Ameri-

can Statesmen, &c. &c., to show that Slavery

was a legitimate subject of legislation; and this

being proved, it followed that Congress had pow-

er to abolish it or not as they chose in the Dis-

trict and in the territories. He pretended not

that they had any thing to do with it in the

States. He referred to the deeds of cession, in

which, notwithstanding the oft-repeated contrary

declaration, there were no tentations on the sub-

ject of Slavery; and replied to the question

whether Va. and Md. would have made the ces-

sion, had they supposed Slavery would have been

abolished, saying that they made the cession with

their eyes open, that with limitations in the

deeds, the District could not have been consti-

tutionally received; that they were moving

towards its abolition in their own boundaries,

and probably anticipated it here, &c. &c. Be-

fore he concluded, the morning hour expired, and

the subject went over.

Several communications were laid before the

House, among which was one from the President

in answer to a recent call for correspondence, &c.

with reference to the North Western boundary

line, stating that from time to time it has been

laid before them, except for the last few months,

which on account of the expected arrival of an

ambassador on that subject, he deems inexpedi-

ent to communicate now; also, from the Topo-

graphical Bureau, a report of the survey of the

Hudson above and below Albany.

Mr. COBB asked leave to introduce his bill

to provide for the public printing and to separate

the patronage of the Government from the pub-

lic press. Objected by Mr. REIDING.

The subject of the Western waters was further

discussed in Committee of the Whole on the

House—a resolution to terminate the debate on

Saturday at 2 o'clock, having been adopted.

By Mr. STEWART, of Pa., launching out upon

what into the subject of the Tariff, Politics, &c.

until adjournment.

In SENATE, the report from the Post Master

General (alluded to above) was received.

After presentation of petitions and some private

business, the subject of Mr. McDuffie's

Tariff bill with Mr. EVANS'S (Chairman of the

Finance Committee) report thereon adverse to

the constitutionality of its originating in the Se-

nate (as having a revenue bill,) came up.

Mr. KING raised the point of order that the re-

port being adverse, the bill must according to

the usual mode of proceeding first be acted on

and then the report.

Mr. EVANS said the object of the Committee

in the report was to have the Senate determine

upon its jurisdiction, in the case. They had not

gone into the merits of the bill at all.

Mr. KING finally waived his point of order.

Mr. EVANS then briefly sustained the report,

arguing that this, being a bill to raise revenue,</